

April 3, 1981

MEMORANDUM TO [REDACTED]

REAGAN

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RE: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN -
INVESTIGATION

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH

I received a call this afternoon from John Walker, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement. He has previously spoken with Attorney General Smith and expressed a willingness to explore the possibility of a joint statement on the Nashville incident if it would be helpful to the Department and the Bureau. Mr. Walker explained that Secretary Regan had not intended to criticize the Bureau and, in fact, had been most complimentary of it during his testimony as was Stuart Knight. He regretted the play in the press on Mr. Regan's statements. SECRETARY OF TREASURY DONALD X REGAN

I discussed with him the fact that I had asked [REDACTED] to arrange to meet with Secret Service officials to identify any area of our procedures dealing with firearms at airports which might result in Secret Service receiving less information than it wanted to receive and to propose modifications in our procedures as a result of such a meeting to fulfill our responsibilities to Secret Service. He thought this would be most helpful.

Mr. Walker was of the opinion that the focus on the Nashville matter seems to be of rapidly diminishing interest to the press, although recognizing that it will no doubt be reviewed again in legislative hearings. I observed that legislative hearings at least give you an opportunity to articulate the facts in an orderly way. Reviving the Nashville matter through formal statements runs the risk of creating a second story - the FBI is feuding with the Secret Service, which is completely untrue.

I told Mr. Walker about our Press conference on the bullets and also told him that I would keep in touch with him about any interest the Attorney General might have in issuing some kind of statement. It was my thought at this time the Attorney General would probably opt to respond more casually to any subsequent questions that he might encounter in public or during press conferences.

William H. Webster
Director

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WHW:mfd

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DATE 4/6/81
BY [signature]

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